

- FERNALD, M. L., 1944. *Spergula pentandra* in America. *Rhodora* 46: 88.
- MAGUIRE, B., 1952. Caryophyllaceae. In GLEASON, H. A., *The New Britton and Brown Illustrated Flora of the Northeastern United States and Adjacent Canada*. 2: 118-145. The New York Botanical Garden, New York.

### REVISED CHECK-LIST OF THE VASCULAR PLANTS OF MAINE<sup>1</sup>

This new up-to-date amplified and corrected check-list of the vascular flora of Maine is a welcome contribution. It is a pleasure to note that the volume is dedicated to Ralph C. Bean whose scholarly contributions to New England botany and particularly that of Maine are too numerous to summarize here. Indeed the preparation of the revised check-list is primarily the result of Mr. Bean's painstaking study of specimens and recording of records from Maine in the herbarium of the New England Botanical Club.

Many of the obvious deficiencies of the earlier check-list<sup>2</sup>, which serves as an exact model for the present volume, have been corrected; the list is much more complete; introduced species appear now with an asterisk before the specific epithet and some of the arboreal species that were listed in the earlier volume such as *Ginkgo biloba* and *Sciadopitys verticillata* are thankfully omitted. In the years intervening since the first list, certainly most of the extant herbarium material must have been studied. We can happily be confident that this is not a rush job; it is a dependable list which will serve as a secure base for further collections. It is to be noted that the late Dr. Anne Perkins of South Berwick, Maine who was particularly dissatisfied with the earlier list because of the many omissions, sent to the pres-

<sup>1</sup>Ralph C. Bean, Richards, Charles D. and Hyland, Fay. Revised Check-list of the Vascular Plants of Maine. *Josselyn Bot. Soc. Me. Bull.* No. 8 71 pp. Orono, Me. July 1966.

<sup>2</sup>E. C. Ogden, Steinmetz, F. H. and Hyland, F. Check-list of the Vascular Plants of Maine. *Josselyn Bot. Soc. Me. Bull.* No. 8. 1948.



ent reviewer about the year 1949, a "partial list of York Co. plants omitted from check-list". There were twenty-six taxa excluding Carices so specified. Of these all except eight are reported from York Co. in the new list. It is quite possible that specimens of those missing from the present list may be found at Cornell University where Dr. Perkins deposited her collections.

In this reviewer's opinion one aspect of the present volume should provoke some discussion. Professor Fernald reviewed the earlier check-list at some length<sup>3</sup>. Much of the burden of Fernald's critique was directed to the problem of properly indicating for each species in a flora its correct native or introduced status. In fact he went so far (p. 8) as to suggest some criteria to indicate the degree of establishment of introduced species and relative abundance of native species. Admittedly this would be difficult to do but some such distinctions, if not too finely drawn, would greatly enhance the value of any floristic work. Most floras as well as Gray's *Manual* itself too often are misleading or else lacking in any sort of information about known relative abundance of the various taxa under consideration.

The Maine check-list still hasn't resolved this problem; in fact a certain degree of inconsistency seems to prevail. Quoting from the Foreword to the first edition which is reprinted in the revised edition, "Those plants growing on wool-waste, ballast, abandoned-gardens and other habitats where they may not yet be part of our flora but show indications of becoming so are indicated by minus (−) signs." A large number of both herbaceous and woody taxa were indicated as occurring in the appropriate counties by (−) signs in the earlier list but all or nearly all of the herbaceous taxa in the more recent list have been changed to (+) signifying that they now are "considered to be a part of our flora", whereas the woody taxa have been left essentially as they were in the earlier treatment except for the few that have been excluded. Fernald (*loc. cit.*) cited

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<sup>3</sup>Fernald, M. L. An abbreviated Flora of Maine. RHODORA 51: 5-8, 1949



*Deschampsia elongata*, *Chenopodium graveolens* and *Collomia linearis* as species whose permanent status in the Maine flora might be questioned and therefore merit the (—) sign; yet in the revised list these still are indicated by the (+) sign as they were earlier. Presumably it has not been possible to demonstrate that these no longer occur in the wild.

It is hoped that a future edition would correct a few errors in the woody plants and add some indications of relative abundance. The authors are to be commended for leaving out *Ginkgo biloba* and *Sciadopitys verticillata* from the revised edition but what shall we say of *Abies concolor*, (about which there is no mention in Gray's Manual 8th edition) of *Juglans nigra*, *Magnolia acuminata*, *Liriodendron tulipifera* and *Gymnocladus dioica* (in Gray's Manual not stated to spread from cultivation in New England beyond their natural ranges) or of *Cladrastis lutea* ("spreads from cultivation north to Massachusetts")? In New Hampshire we have no evidence that these produce new individuals in nature and the same probably holds true in Maine. However Mr. Richard Eaton states that *Juglans nigra* spreads naturally in eastern Massachusetts and he has found it in thin woods (old pastures) in southern Vermont.

On the other hand it is quite evident that *Berberis vulgaris* and *Berberis Thunbergii* are part of the flora in some areas of Maine. The latter has become decidedly weedy in Bayville (part of Boothbay Harbor, Maine). In fact it has to be pulled up constantly from beneath a heavy growth of *Abies balsamea*, *Picea glauca* and *P. rubens* to prevent it from overrunning the woods and appears abundantly throughout this community at the head of Linekin Bay. On a recent visit to Monhegan Island, plants in varying stages of growth were observed along trails and in the woods at some distance from plantings. The capacity of *Syringa vulgaris* to persist for generations after the original planting and to spread by vegetative means over extensive areas must certainly cause it to be as much a part of the flora as are certain of the wool-waste species that reproduce only locally by seeds.



The reviewer may be pardoned for dwelling on the deficiencies. It is his ambition to do a similar check-list for New Hampshire in the near future and if he can succeed as well and produce as complete and accurate a list as this one is in most particulars he will be well pleased.

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#### Errata for RHODORA

- ✓ p. 3 line 15 for altissiumum, read altissimum
- ✓ p. 256 line 27 for Deyeuzia, read Deyeuxia

*Volume 68, No. 776 including pages 409-543, was issued December 28, 1966.*